

2016 EAHCP Water Quality & Biological Monitoring Work Groups – Kickoff Meeting

March 15, 2016





Edwards Aquifer Authority Staff

- ▶ Nathan Pence (Habitat Conservation Plan Executive Director)
- ▶ Alicia Reinmund-Martinez (Habitat Conservation Plan Director)
- ▶ Mark Hamilton (Aquifer Management Services Executive Director)
- ▶ Gizelle Luevano (Lead Hydrologic Data Coordinator)
- ▶ Daniel Large (Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinator)
- ▶ Steven Johnson (Research Manager)
- ▶ Bob Hall (Senior Project Coordinator)





Water Quality Monitoring Work Group

- ▶ Ken Diehl (San Antonio Water System)
- ▶ Melani Howard (City of San Marcos/Texas State University)
- ▶ Charles Kreidler (EAHCP Science Committee)
- ▶ Steven Raabe (EAHCP Stakeholder Committee/San Antonio River Authority)
- ▶ Benjamin Schwartz (Texas State University)
- ▶ Michael Urrutia (Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority)

Biological Monitoring Work Group

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- ▶ Tyson Broad (Texas Tech University)
 - ▶ Jacquelyn Duke (EAHCP Science Committee/Baylor University)
 - ▶ Mark Enders (City of New Braunfels)
 - ▶ Rick Illgner (Edwards Aquifer Authority)
 - ▶ Doyle Mosier (EAHCP Science Committee)



Meeting Facilitators

- ▶ Design Workshop
 - ▶ 40 years of experience leading complex planning efforts and facilitating stakeholder workshops
 - ▶ Rebecca Leonard, AICP, PLA, LEED-AP: Principal-in-Charge
 - ▶ Emily Risinger, LEED GA, CDT: Project Manager
- ▶ Roles and Responsibilities
 - ▶ Develop a strategy for each work group meeting
 - ▶ Clearly articulate meeting objectives and logistics
 - ▶ Facilitate work groups
 - ▶ Ensure that all perspectives are represented, all members are treated equitably, and all input is documented
 - ▶ Record meetings and produce official minutes to be included in both final work group reports



Nomination and Election of Chair



Work Groups Schedule

- Doodle poll results
- Meeting time options: 9 am – 12 pm
1 pm – 4 pm

Work Group	March	April	May
Water Quality	Tue 29	Thu 7 Wed 27	Wed 11 Fri 20
Biological Monitoring	Tue 29	Thu 7 Wed 27	Mon 9 Fri 20




Working Group Meeting Strategy

Meeting	Water Quality Tasks	Biological Monitoring Tasks	Dates
#1-Introductions	Elect Work Groups Chair Confirm schedule and next steps Establish operational guidelines Review charges and general information		March
#2-Work Session(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss staff generated draft scope of work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review other water quality monitoring programs Determine historic standards (10 percent rule) Present NAS recommendations Review draft report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss staff generated draft scope of work Present NAS recommendations Review draft report 	March
#3-Consensus Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve consensus on SOW Present final recommendations Review draft report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve consensus on SOW Present final recommendations Review draft report 	April
#4-Reporting	Discuss synergy and efficiencies Presentation of final report		May
#5-Approval	Approval of final report		June



Work Groups Overview

- Background and charges
 - Purpose of the monitoring programs
 - Work Group operational guidelines
 - Monitoring programs to date
 - Scope of work
 - Data
 - Overlap and synergy
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Background

- ▶ **March 2015:** *The National Academy of sciences made recommendations for improving the Biological (BioMP) and Expanded Water Quality (WQP) Monitoring Programs*
- ▶ **July 2015:** A Work Group of the EAHCP Implementing Committee approved a holistic review of both monitoring programs.
- ▶ **February 2016:** EAHCP Implementing Committee approved the creation of the 2016 EAHCP Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program Work Group (WQWG), with the following charge...






Charges

“...to carry out a holistic review of the WQP and/or BioMP, taking into account the recommendations of NAS, lessons learned, the input of the Science Committee, the Permittees, and subject matter experts.

The purpose of the Work Group is to produce a final report for review by the Implementing Committee.”





Purpose: Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program

The EAHCP calls for the WQP to:

- ▶ provide early detection of water quality impairments associated with the San Marcos and Comal systems that may negatively impact the Covered Species,
- ▶ identify the point and nonpoint sources of those impairments, supporting Covered Species protection by allowing for investigation and adoption of any necessary measures through the Adaptive Management Process (AMP) to address the source(s) of the concerning indicators (§5.7.2).



Purpose: Biological Monitoring Program

The EAHCP calls for the BioMP to:

- ▶ fill important gaps in knowledge about, and to refine estimates of, the ecological condition of the Comal and San Marcos ecosystems through an ongoing program of collection of baseline and critical period biological monitoring data.
- ▶ This program provides a means of monitoring changes to habitat availability and population abundance of the Covered Species that may result from Covered Activities (§6.3.1).






Basic Operational Guidelines

- ▶ Consensus
- ▶ Species-driven
- ▶ Eliminate duplication
- ▶ Stewardship of dollars (no increase in budget)
- ▶ Others?






Principles for Participation

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- ▶ Meeting locations will vary (New Braunfels and San Marcos)
 - ▶ Start on time (your duty)
 - ▶ End on time (our duty)
 - ▶ Capture decisions
 - ▶ Turn cell phones off
 - ▶ Everyone has a voice
 - ▶ Facilitator will call on people in audience
 - ▶ No question is a bad question
 - ▶ Off-topic comments and requests for information will be captured in the “parking lot”
 - ▶ Transparent, iterative review of Deliverable Report



Current EAHCP Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program (presentation by SWCA)





Current EAHCP Biological Monitoring Program (presentation by BioWEST)



EAHCP Monitoring Budget

	7.1	2013 Actuals	2014 Actuals	2015 Actuals	2016 Approved	2017
WQP	\$200K	\$172K	\$404K	\$448K	\$498K	?
BioMP	\$400K	\$400K	\$417K	\$417K	\$417K	?



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Questions or comments?



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